

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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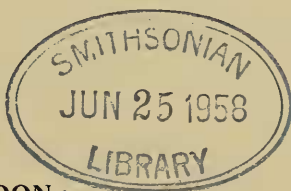
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 1. SECTION F. Part F.12. Pp. 191—200

DIRECTION 101

Determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach] [1814] (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (*Direction* supplementary to *Opinion* 104)



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1958

Price Six Shillings and Sixpence

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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(12th August 1953)

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Dr. Alden H. MILLER (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.*)
(29th October 1954)

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(6th November 1954)

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(16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 101

DETERMINATION OF THE GENDER TO BE ATTRIBUTED
TO THE GENERIC NAME "NEPHROPS" [LEACH], [1814]
(CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) ON THE
"OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN
ZOOLOGY" ("DIRECTION" SUPPLEMENTARY
TO "OPINION" 104)

RULING :—It is hereby directed that in accordance with the provisions of *Declaration* 36 the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814] (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), a name placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104, is to be treated as being of the masculine gender.

I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT "DIRECTION"

The present *Direction* is concerned with the gender to be attributed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* to the

generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814] (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), a name placed on the foregoing *Official List* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104 (1928, *Smithson. misc. Coll.* 73 (No. 5) : 25—28). The above is the only generic name having the termination “*ops*” that was placed on the foregoing *Official List* in the period up to the end of 1936 and a gender must now be assigned to it. The delay in this case was necessitated by the need for the promulgation by the International Commission of a general Ruling as to the gender to be attributed to generic names having the foregoing termination. The Ruling in question was given by the Commission in its *Declaration* 36 (1958, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 18 : i—xii). The adoption of the above *Declaration* on 16th June 1957 cleared the ground for the submission to the Commission by the Secretary on 25th October 1957 of the following paper containing proposals for the determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach] :—

Proposed determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic name “*Nephrops*” [Leach], [1814] (Class Crustacea), a name placed on the “*Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*” by the Ruling given in “*Opinion*” 104

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The present paper is concerned with the single name comprised in the second of the three groups of names placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936, for which a gender has not as yet been assigned by the International Commission. Proposals for the determination of the gender attributable to the ten names belonging to the first of these groups are contained in a paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1278 which is being submitted with Voting Paper V.P.(57)62,¹ concurrently with the present paper ; corresponding proposals regarding the three

¹ For the decision taken by the Commission on Voting-Paper V.P.(57)62 see *Direction* 100 which is being published as Part F.11 of the present Section of Volume 1 of the “*Opinions and Declarations*” Series.

names comprised in the third of the groups concerned are being submitted in a paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 942 which is being issued with Voting Paper V.P.(57)64.²

2. The reason why no gender has as yet been assigned to the fourteen names referred to above is that, when in 1955 this question was examined, it was found in each case that the gender customarily assigned to the generic name in question by specialists in the groups concerned was not in harmony with the requirements of the gender Rules provisionally approved by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen 1953 (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 49—51, Decision 84). I accordingly at that time prepared a short note giving particulars of these names in order that consideration might be given to the question of the possible use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of directing that the gender to be attributed to the names in question should in each case be that currently used in the literature (Hemming, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 260—262). At the same time Public Notice of the possible use of the Plenary Powers was given in the prescribed manner.

3. The measures described above elicited comments from three specialists in the group concerned : (1) Fenner A. Chace, Jr. (*U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) ; (2) Dr. Isobel Gordon (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) ; (3) Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*). Of these specialists, two (2) (Gordon ; Holthuis) advocated the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of securing a valid foundation for the continued use of the masculine gender for the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], while the third specialist (Chace) was opposed to that course, considering that the gender to be attributed to a generic name should be in strict accordance with the classical gender rules and therefore that no exception should be made to the rule laid down by the Copenhagen Congress that names having the termination “-ops” should be treated as being feminine in gender.

4. In the meantime the validity of the Rule in regard to the gender attributable to “-ops” names provisionally adopted by the Copenhagen Congress had been called in question in connection with the generic name *Triops* Schrank, 1801, a name which played a prominent part in an application submitted to the Commission for the purpose of putting

² For the decision taken by the Commission on Voting Paper V.P.(57)64 see Direction 103 which is being published as Part F.14 of the present Section of Volume 1.

an end to the confusion and lack of uniformity arising from the use of the generic name *Apus* both as the name for a genus of birds (the Swifts) and as the name for a genus of Phyllopod Crustacea.³ This led to a decision that, in order to put an end to doubts regarding the gender attributable to “-ops” names, the validity of the Copenhagen Rule on this subject set out in Decision 84 of that Congress should be made the subject of an immediate review under the provisions of Decision 85 of that Congress instead of (as had previously been contemplated) being dealt with later as part of the general review of the provisional Gender Rules set out in Copenhagen Decision 84 prescribed by that Congress’s Decision 85.

5. The review so undertaken disclosed, broadly speaking, that names having the termination “-ops” should be treated as being feminine in gender (as stated in the Copenhagen Rule) when the “ops” portion of the word has the meaning of “a voice” but that such names should be treated as being masculine in gender when the “ops” portion has the meaning of “an eye” or “a face”. The Consulting Classical Adviser’s Report on this subject was set out in a paper (bearing the Number Z.N.(S.) 1206) which was submitted to the Commission on 15th March 1957, together with Voting Paper V.P.(57)25. The proposals so submitted were approved by the Commission by its vote on the above Voting Paper. The decision so taken has since been embodied in *Declaration 36*.⁴

6. Now that the question of principle has been settled in the manner described above, it is possible—and necessary—that a decision should be taken on the gender to be attributed on the *Official List* to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], the only name of this class on the *Official List* for which a gender has not yet been determined. Having regard to the fact that this is the name for a lobster, it would be surprising if the “ops” portion of the name were derived from the Greek word *ὄψ* with a short “o” having the meaning “a voice”, it being much more likely that the “ops” portion of the name was derived from the Greek word *ὠψ* having a long “o” meaning “an eye” or “a face”. This likelihood becomes a certainty when it is realised that the “Neph-” portion of this generic name is based on the Greek word *νεφρός* meaning “a kidney”, for a name for a lobster having the meaning “Kidney-like-Eye” would be quite appropriate while a name having the meaning “Kidney-like-Voice” would be meaningless and absurd. Accordingly, it is to be concluded

³ *Opinion 502* was published on 24th January 1958 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : 65—120).

⁴ *Declaration 36* was published on 24th January 1957 (*Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* **18** : i—xii).

that the “ops” portion of the name *Nephrops* is derived from the Greek word “ops” with a long “o” and therefore that under the provisions of *Declaration* 36 the gender to be attributed to this name is the masculine gender.

7. Professor Grensted, the Commission's Consulting Classical Adviser, concurs in this view, all the more so because the attribution of the masculine gender to this name is in accordance with the settled practice of carcinologists who must therefore be assumed to have taken the view in the period immediately following the publication of this name that the “ops” portion was derived from the Greek word “ops” with a long “o” having the meaning “an eye” (or “a face”).

8. From the particulars given in the preceding paragraph it will be seen that the correct gender for the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814], is the gender currently attributed to it by specialists and therefore that, contrary to what was originally believed, there is no need to consider the question whether the Plenary Powers should be used for the purpose of validating the attribution of that gender to this generic name.

9. It is accordingly recommended that the Commission should now give a Ruling (a) that, in accordance with the provisions of *Declaration* 36, the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814], is the masculine gender and therefore (b) that the foregoing gender be attributed to that name in the entry relating thereto on the *Official List* made by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 104.

25th October 1957.

2. Registration of the present application : On the discovery of the problem with which the present *Direction* is concerned, this case, with certain somewhat similar cases was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 942. Later upon the adoption in June 1957 of a *Declaration* giving a general ruling as to the gender to be attributed to generic names having the termination “-ops”, the question of the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814] was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1276.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)63 : On 6th November 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)63) was issued in which the Members of

the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, “ the proposal relating to the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814], as set out in paragraph 9 of the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1276 [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper”.

4. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 6th February 1958.

5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)63 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)63 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-two (22) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Boschma ; Holthuis ; Lemche ; Hering ; Mayr ;
Mertens ; Dymond ; Vokes ; Esaki ; Bradley (J.C.) ;
Riley ; Prantl ; Bonnet ; Jaczewski ; Miller ;
Bodenheimer ; Hemming ; Stoll ; Key ; Kühnelt ;
Tortonese ; Sylvester-Bradley ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

do Amaral ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, two (2) :*

Hankó ; Cabrera.

6. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 7th February 1958, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)63, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

8. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Direction ” : On 9th February 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)63.

8. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

9. “ Direction ” Number : The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction* One Hundred and One

(101) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Ninth day of February, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING